CAMBRIDGE
OCR

Summary brochure

Health and social care qualifications

With the demographics in the UK changing rapidly and the population living longer, the health and social care sectors are growing and adapting to meet demand. For those wishing to work in these sectors, our qualifications provide a solid foundation of knowledge, practical skills and experience.

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ocr.org.uk/healthandsocialcare

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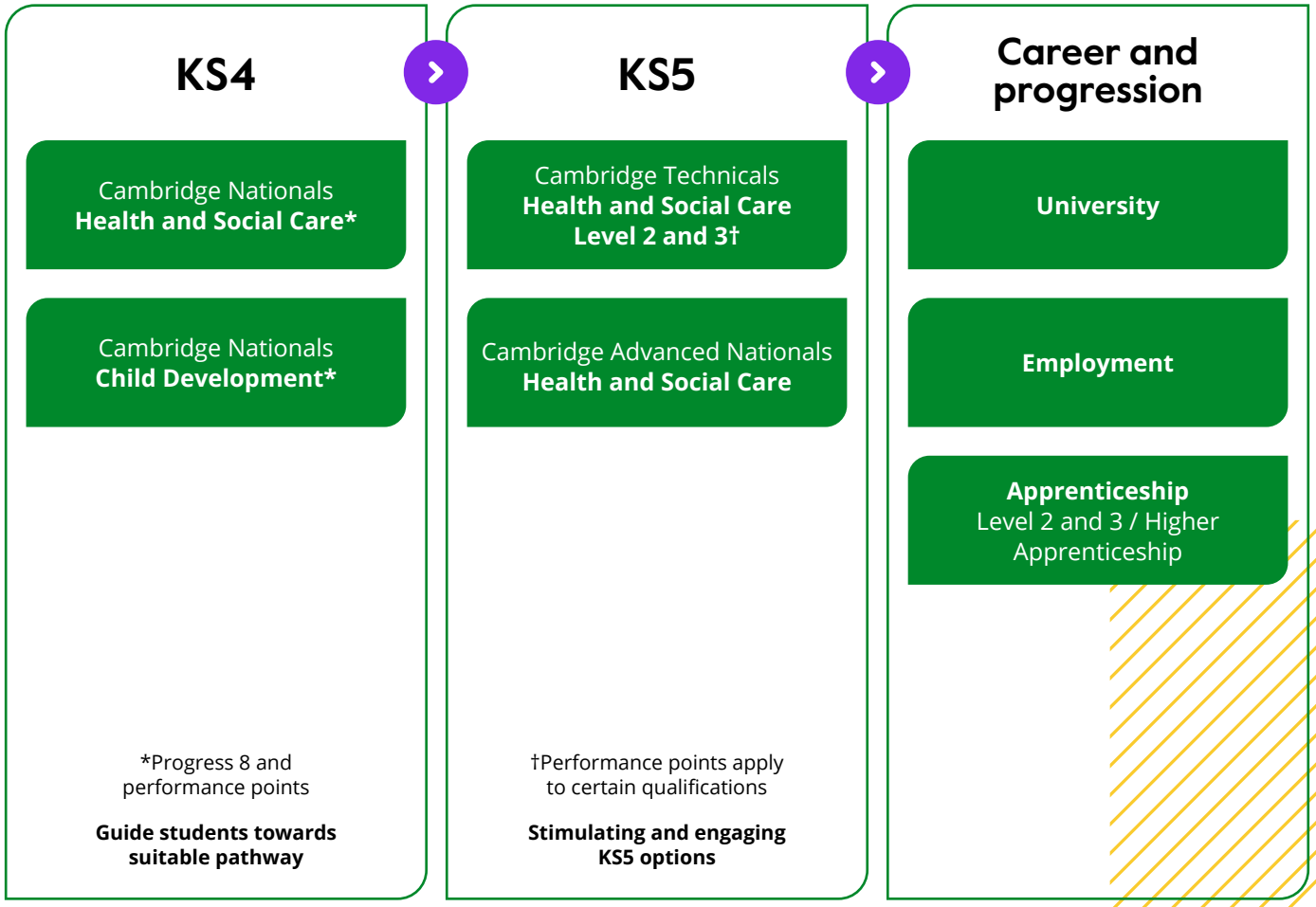
Qualifications for the UK's biggest employment sector

The health and social care sector employs vast numbers of people across the country, within a varied range of job roles. In fact, it's the biggest employment sector in the UK and includes elements of the NHS, local authority adult and child care services, and a range of independent providers that provide care in a range of settings. Our qualifications for this sector are the high quality, vocational Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals and Cambridge Advanced Nationals.

Cambridge Nationals are for 14 to 16 years old. We've designed them to allow students the freedom to explore more deeply the things that interest them. The teaching of the qualifications will normally be through practical work, learning skills and how to do things that may be relevant to the world of work.

Cambridge Technicals and **Cambridge Advanced Nationals** are created for students aged 16 and over in either school or Further Education. A high-quality alternative to A Levels, they enable you to provide qualifications that are fit for purpose, right for your student's destination, and accessible for their needs.

Pathways for health and social care



Cambridge Nationals

ABOUT CAMBRIDGE NATIONALS

Our Cambridge Nationals suite is specifically designed for students aged 14 to 16 years. They provide an excellent start for vocational study, contribute to a broad curriculum offer and enable progression to Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as our Cambridge Technicals, Cambridge Advanced Nationals or A Levels.

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/cambridgenationals

Cambridge National in Health and Social Care

THE QUALIFICATION

Offering an effective introduction to the health and social care sector, this qualification looks at the role the sector plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals. It also introduces students to knowledge and skills needed to work in various care settings.

Underpinning the qualification is a focus on person-centred values, rights of individuals, communicating effectively and protecting individuals. Also, supporting individuals through life events and the option to plan and deliver a creative activity or a health promotion campaign.

The qualification is designed to help students learn practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations, to think creatively, analytically, logically and critically and develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the health and social care sector and more widely.

ASSESSMENT

Our Level 1 / Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care consists of two mandatory units and one optional unit from a choice of two. The externally assessed unit makes up 40% of the qualification.

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care (120 GLH) – J835

IDEAL FOR:

Students aged 14 to 16 years

PROGRESS TO:

A Levels, apprenticeships or further advanced vocational qualifications at Level 3, such as our Cambridge Technicals or Cambridge Advanced Nationals

FINAL AWARD:

- Distinction*, Distinction, Merit or Pass at Level 2
- Distinction, Merit or Pass at Level 1

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Included on the KS4 performance tables for England

Cambridge National in Child Development

THE QUALIFICATION

Our Cambridge National in Child Development will inspire and equip students with independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the childcare sector and more widely. It covers all aspects of child development, from pre-conception to five years, as well as providing safe and nurturing environments.

ASSESSMENT

Students study three mandatory topics:

- Health and well-being for child development
- Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years
- Understand the development of a child from one to five years.

The first unit underpins all the other learning in this qualification. Students develop essential knowledge of pre-conception health and reproduction, antenatal care and preparation for birth, postnatal checks, postnatal care and the conditions for development and childhood illnesses and a child safe environment.

In the second unit, students gain knowledge of childhood accidents and accident prevention and choosing suitable equipment for a childcare setting. They'll also explore the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years.

In the third unit, students look at the development norms from one to five years and the stages and benefits of play. They'll use observation, research techniques and skills to investigate these development norms and explore their findings.

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/child-development-level-1-2-j809

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Child Development (120 GLH) – J809

IDEAL FOR:

Students aged 14 to 16 years

PROGRESS TO:

A Levels, apprenticeships or further advanced vocational qualifications at Level 3, such as our Cambridge Technicals or Cambridge Advanced Nationals

FINAL AWARD:

- Distinction*, Distinction, Merit or Pass at Level 2
- Distinction, Merit or Pass at Level 1

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Included on the KS4 performance tables for England

Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care

ABOUT CAMBRIDGE TECHNICALS

Cambridge Technicals are vocational qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3 for students **aged 16+**. They're designed with the workplace and progression to higher education in mind and provide a high-quality alternative to A Levels at Level 3. Qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 have a mixture of internal and external assessments and centres are allocated a visiting moderator.

Level 2

Our Level 2 Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care qualifications aim to develop your students' professional and personal skills through interaction with people who either work in the sector or require care or support, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin their skills. Your students will consider the real impacts to people living with conditions or illnesses such as the social, financial and psychological impacts, not just the signs, symptoms and treatment of faceless conditions or illnesses. Students will also learn about the legislation and guidance supporting health and social care. Designed in collaboration with industry experts, the qualifications focus on the requirements that today's employers demand.

Thanks to a broad range of centre assessed units with practical and wider project-based assessment opportunities, as well as examined units on Principles of working in health, social care and childcare; and Health and safety in practice, these are focused qualifications. There are also job role-specific pathways for your students to choose from.

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/health-and-social-care

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODES:

Health and Social Care Level 2 (2016) Award*/ Certificate/Diploma – 05890, 05880, 05881

Health and Social Care Level 2 (2012) Certificate/ Extended Certificate/Diploma – 05300, 05302, 05305

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Health and Social Care Level 2 (2016) Certificate/ Diploma – 05880, 05881 are eligible for Key Stage 5 performance points

*Health and Social Care Level 2 (2016) Award – 05880 is not eligible for Key Stage 5 performance points

IDEAL FOR:

Students aged 16+

PROGRESS TO:

Level 3, apprenticeships, employment

Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care

There are funding changes from July 2025 impacting these qualifications in England. Please see our Level 3 qualification funding guide for England.

Level 3

Our Level 3 Cambridge Technicals in Health and Social Care qualifications help your students to achieve their potential and progress to the next stage of their lives, whether that's higher education, an apprenticeship or employment.

We've consulted with universities, employers and industry specialists to make sure your students will gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century.

An extensive range of centre assessed units with practical and wider project-based assessment opportunities, as well as examined units on: Equality, diversity and rights; Health, safety and security; Anatomy and physiology; Personalisation and person centered approach; Safeguarding and Research methods, has resulted in focused qualifications. Depending on the size chosen, these qualifications can either complement a Key Stage 5 study programme alongside other vocational qualifications or A Levels, or may make up the bulk of a two-year study programme. Our Diplomas have vocational pathways within them that students can follow (one pathway must be achieved).

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/health-and-social-care/#level-3

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODES:

Health and Social Care Level 3 (2016) Certificate (05380)/ Extended Certificate (05381)/Foundation Diploma (05832)

Health and Social Care Level 3 (2016) Diploma (05833)/ Extended Diploma (05871)

Health and Social Care Level 3 (2012) Certificate (05307)/ Introductory Diploma (05309)/Subsidiary Diploma (05312)/Diploma (05315)/Extended Diploma (05318)

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

The Level 3 (2016) Certificate/Extended Certificate/ Foundation Diploma are eligible for Key Stage 5 performance points in England until 2026

The Level 3 (2016) Diploma and Extended Diploma are eligible for Key Stage 5 performance points in England until 2027

FUNDING (2016 SUITE):

Funding is not available in England for new cohorts starting in September 2025 for the Certificate, Extended Certificate and Foundation Diploma

Funding for the Diploma and Extended Diploma has been extended into 2025/26

IDEAL FOR:

Students aged 16+

PROGRESS TO:

Higher education, apprenticeships, employment

UCAS POINTS:

Level 3 qualifications receive UCAS tariff points

Cambridge Advanced Nationals

ABOUT CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED NATIONALS

Cambridge Advanced Nationals are our Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualifications, available for first teaching from 2025. All our Level 3 150 GLH, 180 GLH (AS Level size) and 360 GLH (A Level size) Cambridge Advanced Nationals submitted in Cycle 1 are approved for funding.

Designed for students aged 16–19 years, our Level 3 Cambridge Advanced Nationals will complement existing A Level and post-16 study programmes.

Our qualifications provide students with the practical and essential skills and knowledge they need to better prepare themselves for entry into higher education.

Level 3 Alternative Academic Qualification Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care

CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED NATIONALS

THE QUALIFICATION

Our Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care is for students aged 16–19 years old.

There are 2 qualifications available in Health and Social Care. These are:

- Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care (Certificate)
- Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care (Extended Certificate)

They are designed to provide students with theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience of health and social care, equipping them with the understanding and skills that will help prepare them for progression to undergraduate study and are relevant to the health and social care sector.

The qualification will help students develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the sector developing transferable skills that can be used in both higher education and other life and work situations.

This qualification will complement other learning that students are completing at Key Stage 5. If you are a full-time student, it will be part of your studies along with your A Levels and/or other Level 3 qualifications.

ASSESSMENT

Certificate

There are three mandatory units that students must complete:

- Principles of health and social care (F090) – External assessment
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (F091) – External assessment
- Person-centred approach to care (F092) – Non-examined assessment

Extended Certificate

There are four mandatory units, and two optional units students must complete:

- Principles of health and social care (F090) – External assessment
- Anatomy and physiology for health and social care (F091) – External assessment
- Person-centred approach to care (F092) – Non-examined assessment
- Supporting people with mental health conditions (F093) – Non-examined assessment

The two optional units are chosen from the following four units:

- Supporting people with long term physiological conditions (F094) – Non-examined assessment
- Investigating public health (F095) – Non-examined assessment
- Supporting people in relation to sexual health, pregnancy and postnatal health (F096) – Non-examined assessment
- Supporting healthy nutrition and lifestyles (F097) – Non-examined assessment

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODES:

Cambridge Advanced National in Health and Social Care Certificate/Extended Certificate – H025/H125

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Both qualifications are eligible for Key Stage 5 performance points

FINAL AWARD:

Certificate: D* (highest) to P (lowest)

Extended Certificate: D* (highest) to P (lowest)

IDEAL FOR:

Students aged 16+

PROGRESS TO:

Higher education, apprenticeships, employment

UCAS POINTS:

Recognised in the UCAS tariff tables and will receive UCAS points

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-advanced-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-3-h025-h125

Supporting you in qualification delivery

Our aim is to support you on your journey with us from initial enquiry right through to results. To help you get going, support you through delivery and allow you to develop professionally, we provide a massive range of support to help secure your students' futures.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

EXPERT SUBJECT ADVICE

Our subject advisors provide information and support to schools, including specification and non-exam assessment advice, updates on resource developments and a range of training opportunities. You can reach them through our customer support centre on **01223 553998** or by email at **vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk**

You can also find teacher support at **ocr.org.uk/healthandsocialcare**

TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES

- **Teach Cambridge**
  Teach Cambridge is our personalised and secure website that provides teachers with a single point of access to all the support and resources you need to teach our qualifications.
- **Lesson elements**
  Task sheets and accompanying instructions for some of the activities in the delivery guide.
- **Skills guides**
  A range of generic skills guides providing knowledge and tips covering topics such as communication, research skills and exam techniques.
- **Teacher and delivery guides**
  A range of lesson ideas with associated activities that you can use with students to deliver the contents of the qualifications.

SAMPLE LEARNER WORK

We've created sample learner work across the majority of our qualifications that will support you in understanding the expectations of the mark schemes.

PARTNER RESOURCES AND TEXTBOOKS

Our health and social care qualifications are supported by endorsed textbooks and resources published by leading publishers.

BLOGS

Read our blogs at **ocr.org.uk/blog** and gain interesting insights from our subject advisors and other leading figures from the world of education.

KEEP UP TO DATE

Sign up today at **ocr.org.uk/signup** for Cambridge OCR updates including subject news, upcoming events and useful resources.

ASSESSMENT

ACTIVE RESULTS

This is a **free** online A Level, GCSE and Cambridge Nationals results analysis service to help you review the performance of individual students or your whole school. Active Results provides access to detailed results data, enabling more comprehensive analysis of results to give you a more accurate measure of the achievements of your centre and students. Find out more at **ocr.org.uk/activeresults**

ASSESSMENT MATERIALS

Sample question papers and sample candidate work.

EXAMBUILDER

A **free** online mock assessment service for Cambridge Nationals and Technicals. It draws on historical past papers to simulate a real examination and gives students the opportunity to practise and build up confidence. **ocr.org.uk/exambuilder**

PAST PAPERS

You and your students can practise with previous examination papers for each subject.

PROGRESS TRACKER

An Excel-based tracking tool to help you monitor students' progress throughout the qualification.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT (FUNCTIONAL SKILLS)

This **free** paper-based tool helps you profile your students' starting point. You can access it through **interchange.ocr.org.uk** – our secure website for centres, which offers a variety of useful services and valuable resources.

PRACTICE PAPERS

Create mock exams and help students get a clearer picture of the qualification requirements. We put all our practice papers through exactly the same long and detailed processes as the live papers to ensure that they match the style and rigour of the live assessments.

CANDIDATE EXEMPLARS

A selection of candidate style answers and work with associated examiner commentary.

MODEL ASSIGNMENTS

Model assignments provide a scenario and set of tasks that enable you to assess your students against the requirements specified in the grading criteria.

ACCESS TO SCRIPTS

A **free** service for exams officers to download copies of your students' completed question papers.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND EVENTS

All our qualifications are supported with comprehensive training. Check out **ocr.org.uk/professionaldevelopment** to find out what's available for face-to-face or online training courses.

TEACHER NETWORKS

These free informal meetings are designed to encourage and develop local networking and support for health and social care in your area. They're an opportunity to speak with like-minded colleagues and one of our subject advisors. Contact **networks@ocr.org.uk** or visit **teach.ocr.org.uk/teacher-network-events** to find a meeting near you.

Join our teacher panel

Share valuable feedback on everything from creative concepts to teaching and support resources.

ocr.org.uk/join

Next steps

Step 1

Already a Cambridge OCR centre? Great, you're all set.

If not, call our Customer Development Team on 02476 856072

Step 2

Ask your exams officer for access to **Teach Cambridge**

teachcambridge.org

Step 3

Download the specification and check out our range of resources

Step 4

Keep up-to-date by signing up for email updates

Step 5

Book onto professional development events and **teacher networks**

ocr.org.uk

For more information visit

ocr.org.uk/healthandsocialcare
facebook.com/cambridgeocr
instagram.com/cambridgeocr
linkedin.com/company/cambridgeocr
tiktok.com/@cambridgeocr
x.com/OCR_Health
youtube.com/cambridgeocr

Call our customer support centre on
01223 553998

Alternatively, you can email us on
vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Visit our online support centre at
support.ocr.org.uk

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